apprehending that I might very likely stand alone and be considered a disturber of Israel, a sort of Dorr in the literary camp of New England. I, however, felt so strongly convinced that I was in the right that I concluded to venture; and your letter encourages me to hope that I may do some good. As it is, we are multiplying little men and forming no great ones; and the community, having no leaders, is tossed about with every wind of ultraism."

To John N. Wilder, Esq., of Albany, who had written in regard to the movement then on foot to establish a university in Western New York, he wrote: —

"What I want you to think of is, first of all, not to erect dormitory buildings for students. It leads to half, or more than half, of the trouble in colleges, and besides absorbs money that might be much better employed. If you start on this principle, it will save you from much expenditure.

"But pray observe another thing. Try to establish an institution that shall teach what people will pay for learning. As it is, colleges are merely making lawyers, ministers, and doctors; and these will not support one half of the colleges at the north. Try the application of science to the arts. I think that this will support itself, and aid the professional school."

It has already been remarked that President Wayland desired so to aid those who were in pursuit of an education as in the highest possible degree to elevate the standard of scholarship. With this view he proposed to the corporation to devote the income of certain funds, bequeathed by Hon. Nicholas Brown, to the establishment of premiums for excellence in various branches of study. And he himself founded the "President's Premiums," for the purpose of advancing the scholarship of those entering the university. The Rev. Henry Jackson, D. D., also established premiums for excellence in the studies pursued by the Senior class. Among those who competed successfully for the various classes of premiums named above, are many persons who have since attained the highest eminence in literary and professional life.





We have more than once alluded to the labors put forth by Dr. Wayland for the advancement of popular education. He, however, did not feel that it is by schools alone that this object can be promoted. He regarded popular libraries as indispensable to the cultivation of a fondness for reading and of general intelligence. The town of Wayland, in Middlesex County, Mass. (formed from portions of several adjoining townships), had received its name in honor of the president of Brown University.

"On commencement day at Brown University, in the year 1847, President Wayland, in an informal manner, expressed a desire to do something, according to his humble means, to help the inhabitants of the town of Wayland to a town library. He said that he wished not only that the inhabitants of the town might enjoy the advantages to be derived from such a library, but also that other towns in its vicinity might be induced by this example to establish for themselves similar libraries. He proposed to make a donation to the town, of five hundred dollars for this purpose. At the suggestion of Judge Mellen, the donation was tendered upon the condition that five hundred dollars should be obtained in the town by subscription or otherwise, — the whole amount of one thousand dollars to be devoted to the purchase of books for a town library.

"Five hundred and thirty-four dollars were quickly raised by subscription, and President Wayland immediately placed his donation in the hands of Mr. Mellen." *

The free library, thus originated in the town of Wayland, was opened for the delivery of books, August 7, 1850, and has ever since been in beneficent action.

"After the Wayland Library was in successful operation, the suggestion was made to have a 'Library Celebration,' in which every one could participate, the expense to be borne by the town. This suggestion at once re-

* For the facts relating to the Wayland Library we are indebted to a pamphlet by Rev. Jared M. Heard (a graduate of Brown University), entitled, "Origin of the Free Library System of Massachusetts."



From: A memoir of the life and labors of Francis Wayland. N.Y.: Sheldon 1867

ceived the approbation of the inhabitants. The wish was universal to invite Dr. Wayland to be present upon the occasion, as the guest of the town.

"All the necessary preparations for such a celebration were made with great cheerfulness and promptness.

"The 'Library Celebration' took place August 26, 1851, and will long be remembered by those who witnessed it. The writer hopes that an effort will be made at an early day to publish an account of these exercises. A most interesting occasion it was for several reasons. First, from the cause that originated it, which was most justly stated in the following words by Dr. Wayland to Judge Mellen, the president of the day, while seeing the people, old and young, crowding the church in which the celebration was held: 'This gives me a higher idea of New England character than anything I have before witnessed. Your inhabitants have assembled without distinction of age or sex, to celebrate, with joyful festivities, not any great victory, not any great political event, but *the founding of a library*.'

"Another reason for the interest of this occasion was the unanimity and heartiness with which it was entered into by the inhabitants of the place.

"The exercises at the church consisted of an address by Judge Mellen to Dr. Wayland, in which he thanked him in behalf of the people for his generous donation, and extended to him a cordial welcome. This address was followed by one from President Wayland, which it is hoped may one day be published.

"In his introductory remarks, this gentleman stated the whole idea from which sprang his wish to have free public libraries established. He said, 'Our fathers founded schools where we are taught to read; when we know how to read, we want something to read,—we want books.' And from this simple idea in his great mind originated the movement which has resulted in giving to our state the free public libraries so successfully established in various parts of it."

But the benefits of Dr. Wayland's act of true liberality were not confined to a single town. As the immediate result of the events above alluded to, an Act was passed by the legislature of Massachusetts, in 1851, which empowered all the towns of the state to raise money by taxation for the support of free town libraries.* From this law, and from the action of Dr. Wayland which gave rise to it, have sprung the magnificent free libraries which now enrich Boston, Worcester, New Bedford, and a great and constantly increasing number of towns, and which have already conferred a degree of intellectual benefit that we in vain attempt to estimate.



The following letter from Rev. E. H. Heard, of Concord, Mass. (the adjoining town to Wayland), affords illustration of the influence of the system thus inaugurated:

"CONCORD, MASS., November 24, 1851.

"F. WAYLAND, D. D.

"Rev. Sir: Since you were the prime mover in the free library movement which is now going on in this state, I thought I would write and inform you what progress has been made in the work. The people at Wayland were never more interested than now in their library. At their last town meeting they voted to put the books belonging to the school districts into the town library. And you can hardly find a house in town in which there are not some of these books. They also voted to raise sixty dollars for the library this year.

"And there is to be a town library in this village. The proprietors of the circulating library voted to give it to the town, provided they would raise the largest amount of money allowed by law, every year, with which to increase it. The town accepted it, and voted the required sum. There are six or seven hundred volumes, and the tax will amount to about one hundred and fifty dollars. Many of the adjoining towns are also taking measures to establish libraries. And the time is not far distant when there will be a library in every town in the commonwealth. And other states will not only adopt our common school but our town library system.

"Thus, by your foresight and benevolence, the town of

* This act was prepared by Rev. John B. Wight, a member of the legislature from the town of Wayland, who was also allowed, by the courtesy of the house, the honor of reporting it, without reference to a committee.

Wayland has been enabled to take the lead in a work which will affect the moral and intellectual condition of the people, not only of this state, but of the whole country. And many will yet regard the establishment of town libraries in this state as the crowning benefit which, through your instrumentality, has been conferred on the country. For this, like other acts of benevolence, will be inspiring and creative, and will excite others to rank themselves in the same fellowship by deeds of kindred benevolence. And thus, ages after you shall have passed from these transitory scenes, the offspring of your own benevolent action will be multiplying in numbers and shedding ever-increasing blessings on our happy country.

"Long may you continue to reap the reward of your labors, so vast and of such surpassing value, in the heart-felt gratitude of the people of the whole country.

I am, sir, with the highest respect,

Your obliged servant,

EDWIN H. HEARD."

The following letters of Dr. Wayland belong to the period embraced in this chapter, 1841–1849: —

"Rev. Dr. Anderson: I hear you are going to the Mediterranean; and being in town on business, I snatched a moment to see you, to tender to you again my best wishes, and to assure you of my warm personal attachment, and my love to the work in which you are engaged. May the blessed Savior be with you by sea and on land, among men barbarous and civilized, Christian or pagan. May he prosper your way in the manner best suited to his infinite wisdom, and give you the desire of your heart. May he grant you that wisdom which He who sees the end from the beginning alone can impart, and return you, in due time, to your family, your labors, your country, and the church of Christ. If in anything I can secure your pleasure, command me."

To Rev. Dr. Hoby, Birmingham, England: —

"The last packet from England brought the sad news of the death of John Foster, *clarum et venerabile nomen*. The last great Baptist light on earth is extinguished. The greatest man in our Israel is fallen. I do not think that you have lost so fine a mind in England since Canning.



Southey was learned, classical, a thorough master of English, a poet, and an historian; but he fell immeasurably short of the vigor of Foster. Robert Hall was, I suppose, surpassingly eloquent, a writer almost without fault, and a classic in the language, vying with almost any who have ever written it. But none of them approaches the massive cubic sense of Foster. No one appeals with such irresistible effect to the conscience and common sense of mankind, and neither of them ever has had a transforming effect on so many minds as Foster. He drives his weapon to the hilt at every blow. Were I to characterize his style by any terms I know of, it would be, '*Britons, strike home.*' He never fails to strike home like a true Briton. And then he was so simple in manner, so thorough and heart-felt in piety, so unaffected in his greatness, so apparently unconscious of his power, so humble, that I presume he really thought much less of himself than any one that knew him thought of him; in fine, he was in every respect so remarkable a man that we are filled with despair at the thought that we can never expect to see such another raised up among us."

To Baptist W. Noel, London: —

"Rev. and dear Sir: I know that you will not consider as an intrusion a letter from one who can claim no other personal acquaintance with you than that derived from a few moments' conversation at your chapel, Bedford Row, some nine years since.

"I have just completed the reading of your volume on the Union of Church and State, and I should do injustice to my feelings did I not embrace the earliest opportunity to express to you the sentiments with which it has inspired me. I do not remember ever to have read a work on any subject with such profound and delightful emotions. Every sentence which it contains seems to me pregnant with most important truth — truth that must tell on the interests of the church in all coming time. I bless God that he has put it into your heart to write and publish it; and that his Spirit has guarded you in so remarkable a manner from acrimony and unkindness, while it has led you to adopt a faithfulness which cannot be surpassed.

"But I well know the penalty which you must pay for all this. I cannot measure the storm which will be raised